

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 3, 2009

Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
B-2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As Members of Congress committed to strengthening our nation's health-focused prevention efforts, we respectfully request that you continue to increase the priority given to public health, prevention and wellness funding in the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill. To this end, we specifically ask that you provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with a core program budget line of \$8.6 billion in federal fiscal year 2010.

Supporting proven research-based public health and prevention efforts saves lives, prevents needless disability and suffering, and may help keep health care costs down. While the payback for public health funding may not always be seen in a five-year budget chart, we view increased funding for the CDC as a much-needed down payment on our nation's future health status.

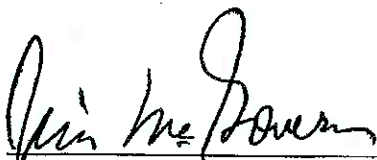
By focusing our federal health policies so heavily on care for the sick, we are losing the battle against poor health and rising health care costs. Preventable chronic conditions consume 75 percent of federal health spending. Killers such as obesity and diabetes remain on an alarming rise - even amongst our youngest children.

Troubling health trends could easily get worse in our current economy. Job losses and tight family budgets resulting from the current recession are causing Americans to lose health care coverage and cut back on preventive health services. At the same time, according to a recent survey by the National Association of City and County Health Officials, tight budgets at the state level resulted in the loss of 7,000 health worker positions in 2008. These are the very health officials in our local communities charged with protecting the health of our population. Many more layoffs and unfilled openings are expected this year.

We commend the committee for providing the CDC with a much needed \$239 million increase in the FY2009 bill, and respectfully request that the committee continue to fund the important work that the CDC does in the FY2010 appropriations bill.

Please work with us to ensure that the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill does far more to keep Americans healthy. We ask that the Committee make the strongest possible case for prevention funding and do all it can to strengthen important public health and prevention agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sincerely,



Congressman Jim McGovern  
Member of Congress



Congresswoman Kay Granger  
Member of Congress



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velazquez

John J.

Dennis J. Kucovich

Dana DeHette

Carl J. B. Maloney

Benny Frank

Edmund

Eliot L. Engel

Doug C. Petros

David M. Higdon

Michael E. Capron

Jimmy Balsani

John Longo

Wayne Dwyer

John Smith

Jerold Hadler

Sam Sam

Henry A. Waxman

Howard L. Berman

Oak E. Kilhee

Lois Capps

Harry E. Withell

Anna M. Lott

Billy Bitt

Mrs VanBelle  
Jim McDermott  
Ch R

Jan Jan  
CE